

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed April 26, 2004 in the application. Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 9-11 were withdrawn in a previously filed paper. Claims 1, 12 and 20 have been amended.

The Examiner has rejected applicants' claims 1-4, 8, 12-15, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by the Lassiter (U.S. Patent No. 6,624,846). The Examiner has rejected applicants' claims 5 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Lassiter patent in view of Driscoll, Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,593,969). The Examiner has rejected applicants' claims 6 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Lassiter patent in view of Official Notice, and applicants' claims 7 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Lassiter patent in view of Busko et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,903,319). With respect to applicants' claims, as amended, the Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants' independent claims 1, 12 and 20 have been amended to more clearly define the present invention. Independent claims 1, 12 and 20 are directed to a camera control system, camera control method, and a storage medium which stores a program, respectively, for displaying a moving image outputted from a first image pickup device which picks up an image and processed by an image processing device, for superimposing and displaying on the moving image a rectangular frame indicative of the image pickup area of a second image pickup device, and for displaying the moving image from the second image pickup means together with the processed moving image and the rectangular frame. Applicants' claims 1, 12 and 20 have been amended to recite that first image pickup means outputs a moving image which is generated within a predetermined fixed area. The distinctive features of the camera

control system, method and storage medium of the present invention are that a moving image output from the first image pickup device is generated within a predetermined fixed area, that the moving image from the second image pickup device is displayed together with the processed moving image of the first image pickup device and a rectangular frame, and that a frame image included in the processed moving image of the first image pickup device to be displayed is generated in response to the desired rectangular area being designated. Such a construction is not taught or suggested by the cited patents.

Lassiter teaches a device wherein, as shown in FIG. 6C, when the control scene 202 reaches a predefined location near a boundary of the target scene 201, the area of view of the target scene 201 moves as needed to maintain a predefined distance (such as 603, as shown) from the boundary of the target scene 201 (Col. 4, lines 30-34; Col. 14, lines 16-20). On the other hand, if the control scene 202 is fixed, the target scene 201 does not move. In the present invention, however, the moving image output from the first image pickup device is generated within a predetermined fixed area, such as the sensible range of the wide-angle camera portion 101 of the first image pickup device. Over time, the moving image output from the first image pickup device moves within such predetermined fixed area regardless of whether the moving image generated by the second image pickup device moves or is fixed. Lassiter thus does not teach or suggest the feature of the present invention that a moving image output from the first image pickup device is generated within a predetermined fixed area.

In addition, Lassiter does not describe the timing by which a frame image is taken from a wide-range camera when using the two cameras. According to the Examiner, Lassiter discloses "wherein a frame image included in the processed moving image of the first image

pickup device to be displayed by said display device is generated in response that the desired rectangular area is designated by the designating device (Column 7 lines 27-38, Column 17 line 8 - Column 18 line 2)." However, the portions of the Lassiter patent cited by the Examiner and the corresponding Figures 7A-7E refer only to processes using one camera, and do not teach or suggest generating a rectangular frame image, which is indicative of an image pickup area of a second image pickup device, in response to the desired rectangular area being designated by a designating device, and that such frame image is included in the processed moving image of the first image pickup device to be displayed, as claimed in the present invention.

Moreover, as shown in Fig. 6C of the Lassiter patent, when the area of the control scene 202 is changed, the moving image of target scene 201 is only displayed and not generated. Before changing the area of control scene 202 is designated, the image of the target scene 201 to be displayed is already generated as panoramic scene 601 (Col. 7, line 64 - col. 8, line 5). In the present invention, however, a frame image is included in the moving image of the first image pickup device, and is generated in response to the desired rectangular area of the processed moving image from the first image pickup device being designated. Lassiter thus does not teach or suggest the feature of the present invention that a frame image included in the processed moving image of the first image pickup device to be displayed is generated in response to the desired rectangular area being designated.

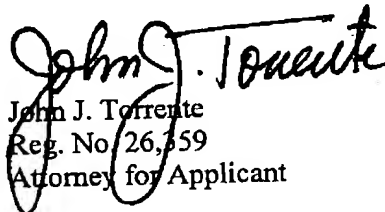
Applicants' amended independent claims 1, 12 and 20, and their respective dependent claims, all of which recite the above features, thus patentably distinguish over the Lassiter patent. Moreover, there is nothing taught or suggested in the Driscoll, Jr. et al. patent or in the Busko et al. patent to change this conclusion.

In view of the above, it is submitted that applicants' claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes an interview would expedite consideration of this Amendment or of the application, a request is made that the Examiner telephone applicants' counsel at (212) 682-9640.

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